

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A scanning microscope system comprising:
 - a) a scanning microscope comprising:
 - a light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in a specimen and that emits a stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in the specimen, whereby the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially; and
 - at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from the specimen; and
 - b) a module that is positionable in a beam path of the scanning microscope and that comprises multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other, which shape the stimulating light beam,
 - wherein the module is adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope and
 - wherein the module comprises means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam in a focal region.
2. (Previously Presented) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, wherein the module comprises a housing.
3. (Previously Presented) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, further comprising an alignment device for alignment of the module with respect to the scanning microscope.
4. – 6. (Canceled).
7. (Previously Presented) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, wherein the module comprises optics for at least one of spreading and focusing the stimulating light beam.

8. (Previously Presented) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, wherein the module comprises at least one retardation plate.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A scanning microscope system ~~according to Claim 9,~~
comprising:

a) a scanning microscope comprising:

a light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in a specimen and that emits a stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in the specimen, wherein the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially; and

at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from the specimen; and

b) a module that is positionable in a beam path of the scanning microscope and adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope, and that comprises multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other, which shape the stimulating light beam,

wherein the module comprises means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam that generates ~~generate~~ an internally hollow focus.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) The module according to Claim 26, further comprising a housing.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) The module according to Claim 26, further comprising an alignment device for alignment of the module with respect to the scanning microscope.

15. (Canceled).
16. (Withdrawn) The module according to Claim 27, wherein the stimulating light source is a laser.
17. (Previously Presented) The module according to Claim 26, further comprising optics for at least one of spreading and focusing the stimulating light beam.
18. (Canceled).
19. (Currently Amended) The module according to Claim 26 ~~Claim 18~~, further comprising at least one retardation plate.
20. (Currently Amended) The A module for a scanning microscope system, comprising:
according to Claim 18,
multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other, which are
configured to shape a stimulating light beam,
wherein the module is configured to connect to a scanning microscope so that
it is adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope and positionable in a beam path
of the scanning microscope, and
wherein the scanning microscope comprises:
a light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting
an energy state in a specimen and that emits said stimulating light beam configured for
generating stimulated emission in the specimen, wherein the exciting light beam and the
stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially;
at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from
the specimen; and
means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam in a
focal plane,

wherein the means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam in the focal plane generate an internally hollow focus.

21. (Previously Presented) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, wherein the multiple optical elements comprise a liquid crystal array.
22. (Previously Presented) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, wherein the multiple optical elements comprise a retardation plate that is transilluminated by a portion of the stimulating light beam.
23. (Withdrawn) A scanning microscope system comprising:
 - a) a scanning microscope comprising:
 - an exciting light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in a specimen; and
 - at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from the specimen; and
 - b) a module that is positionable in a beam path of the scanning microscope, the module comprising:
 - a stimulating light source that emits a stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in the specimen, whereby the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially; and
 - multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other and to the stimulating light source, which shape the stimulating light beam,wherein the module is adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope.
24. (Withdrawn) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 23, wherein the multiple optical elements comprise a liquid crystal array.
25. (Withdrawn) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 23, wherein the multiple optical elements comprise a retardation plate that is transilluminated by a portion of the stimulating light beam.

26. (Currently Amended) A module for a scanning microscope system comprising:
multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other, which are configured to shape a stimulating light beam[[,]] ; and
means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam in a focal region,
wherein the module is configured to connect to ~~the~~ a scanning microscope so that it is adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope and positionable in a beam path of the scanning microscope, and
wherein the scanning microscope comprises:
a light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in a specimen and that emits said stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in the specimen, whereby the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially; and
at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from the specimen.
27. (Withdrawn) A module for a scanning microscope system comprising:
a stimulating light source that emits a stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in a specimen; and
multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other, which are configured to shape the stimulating light beam,
wherein the module is configured to connect to ~~the~~ a scanning microscope so that it is adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope and positionable in a beam path of the scanning microscope, and
wherein the scanning microscope comprises:
an exciting light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in the specimen, whereby the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially; and
at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from the specimen.

28. (New) A scanning microscope system comprising:

a) a scanning microscope comprising:

a light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in a specimen and that emits a stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in the specimen, whereby the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially; and

at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from the specimen; and

b) a module that is positionable in a beam path of the scanning microscope and that comprises multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other, which shape the stimulating light beam,

wherein the module is adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope and wherein the module comprises optics to influence the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam in a focal region.